

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE BILL NO. 10

BY SENATOR MIZELL

INTERNET. Provides relative to rural broadband high-speed internet access.
(Item # 31) (9/1/20)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 12:430.1, relative to rural access to broadband high-speed internet access; to provide for reporting by certain rural electric cooperatives regarding broadband high-speed internet access; to provide for reporting by certain telecommunications associations regarding broadband high-speed internet access; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 12:430.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§430.1. Reporting on broadband high-speed internet access

A. On March 1, 2021, and every March first thereafter, each Louisiana rural electric cooperative shall prepare and submit an annual written report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs and the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce regarding the progress that each electric cooperative has made in deploying broadband high-speed internet access to its members.

B. The written report shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

1 **(1) The number of applications received by the electric cooperative from**
2 **broadband operators and providers to provide broadband high-speed internet**
3 **access to the electric cooperative's members.**

4 **(2) The number of applications received from broadband operators and**
5 **providers that are approved by the electric cooperative.**

6 **(3) The number of electric cooperative members receiving new**
7 **broadband high-speed internet access in the served and unserved areas.**

8 **(4) Any local, state, or federal government grant or loan received to**
9 **provide broadband high-speed internet access in an unserved area and the**
10 **number of members who have received or are expected to receive broadband**
11 **service due to any government grant or loan.**

12 **(5) Any impediments to providing broadband high-speed internet access**
13 **to an unserved area within the electric cooperative's area of service.**

14 **C. For purposes of this Section, the following definitions shall apply:**

15 **(1) "Louisiana rural electric cooperative" means any cooperative, as**
16 **defined by R.S. 12:402, namely Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc.,**
17 **Claiborne Electric Cooperative, Inc., Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc.,**
18 **Dixie Electric Membership Corporation, Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative,**
19 **Inc., Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc., Panola-Harrison Electric**
20 **Cooperative, Inc., Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Cooperation, South**
21 **Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association, Southwest Louisiana Electric**
22 **Membership Corporation, and Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative,**
23 **Inc.**

24 **(2) "Served area" means all areas within the electric cooperative's area**
25 **of service except an unserved area as defined in Paragraph (3) of this**
26 **Subsection.**

27 **(3) "Unserved area" means an area lacking access to broadband service**
28 **according to the Federal Communications Commission's Form 477 or any**
29 **subsequent broadband data gathering tool implemented by the Federal**

Communications Commission.

Section 2. On March 1, 2021, and every March first thereafter, the Louisiana Cable & Telecommunications Association and the Louisiana Telecommunications Association shall each submit a written report on the status of the deployment of broadband to Louisiana rural residents to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs and to the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce regarding the progress that each provider within their respective association has made in bringing broadband high-speed internet access to residents in unserved areas. The information included in the written report shall include, at a minimum, the number of homes in unserved areas that received broadband service after September 1, 2020, from the respective association's member providers; the number of applications made to a rural electric cooperative from the respective association's member providers for the purpose of providing broadband service to the cooperative's members; whether the application was approved or denied; any local, state, or federal government grant or loan received by its member providers within the association to provide broadband high-speed internet access to unserved Louisiana residents and the number of those residents who have received or are expected to receive broadband service due to any government grant or loan; and any impediment to providing broadband high-speed internet access to the unserved areas within the state of Louisiana.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective on September 1, 2020.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST

SB 10 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Mizell

Proposed law requires each La. rural electric cooperative to report in writing to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs and the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce on an annual basis, beginning March 1, 2021, regarding the progress that each electric cooperative has made in deploying broadband high-speed internet access to its members. Proposed law defines "Louisiana rural electric cooperative" as the rural electric cooperatives serving Louisiana, namely Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc., Claiborne Electric Cooperative, Inc., Concordia Electric Cooperative, Inc., Dixie Electric Membership Corporation, Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative, Inc., Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc., Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, Inc., Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation, South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association, Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation, and Washington-St.

Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Proposed law provides that the written report shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) The number of applications received by the electric cooperative from broadband operators and providers to provide broadband high-speed internet access to the electric cooperative's members.
- (2) The number of applications approved by the electric cooperative.
- (3) The number of electric cooperative members receiving new broadband high-speed internet access in the served and unserved areas.
- (4) Any local, state, or federal government grant or loan received to provide broadband high-speed internet access in an unserved area and the number of members who have received or are expected to receive broadband service due to any government grant or loan.
- (5) Any impediment to providing broadband high-speed internet access to an unserved area within the electric cooperative's area of service.

Proposed law provides for the following definitions:

- (1) "Served area" means all areas within the electric cooperative's area of service except those areas which meet definition of an unserved area.
- (2) "Unserved area" means an area lacking access to broadband service according to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) regulations.

Proposed law requires the Louisiana Cable & Telecommunications Association and the Louisiana Telecommunications Association to each submit a written report on the status of the deployment of broadband to Louisiana rural residents to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs and to the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce on an annual basis, beginning March 1, 2021, regarding the progress that each provider within their association has made in bringing broadband high-speed internet access to unserved residents.

Proposed law provides that the written report completed by the Louisiana Cable & Telecommunications Association and the Louisiana Telecommunications Association shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

- (1) The number of homes in an unserved areas that received broadband service after September 1, 2020.
- (2) The number of applications made to a rural electric cooperative for the purpose of providing broadband service to the cooperative's members.
- (3) Whether the application was approved or denied.
- (4) Any local, state, or federal grant or loan received to provide broadband high-speed internet access to unserved Louisiana residents and the number of those residents who have received or are expected to receive broadband service due to any government grant or loan.
- (5) Any impediments to providing broadband high-speed internet access to the unserved areas within the state.

Effective September 1, 2020.

(Adds R.S. 12:430.1)